



# Neighborhood Link

PUBLISHED BY:

THE HAMPTON NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE

## YOUTH IN ACTION — by Brian Livack

### Partnerships Engaging Youth Throughout District 7

**P**icture three children in the third grade sitting in a classroom at Moton Elementary School; they are attentively listening to the directions for a math lesson on fractions and then moving into small groups to solve the problems that the teacher has written on the board. The classroom is bright and happy and the children are smiling, talking about the problems and finding solutions to this latest puzzle in their educational journey.

Now flash forward 25 years, these same children are fully grown adults. One is the doctor you go to for your annual check-up, the other is your financial advisor managing your retirement savings, and the third fixes the brakes on your car and is your neighbor who owns the house next door.

The investment we make in the children that live in our neighborhoods is really an investment in our own future. The residents of District 7 recognize the importance of this investment and protect it in a number of unique ways to insure that every child grows-up happy, healthy, and ready to contribute back to the community. One way to insure youth success is to involve them as partners with adults in the planning, organizing, and in activities that are taking place right now. Leaders in District 7 recognize the power of these partnerships because they see youth as valuable community assets and their involvement is critical to its success.

Without participation and partnership, youth have no means to influence what is going on in their community, and no voice in



matters that directly impact where they live and play. Many young people, and even some adults, are unaware of the possibilities and/or benefits of youth engagement. Numerous organizations across Hampton have seen impressive results when they involve youth in government and civic associations. Here are a few examples illustrating how District 7 is succeeding in making these partnerships work:

### **"Heart 2 Hands"**

The "Heart 2 Hands" program at Spratley Middle School aims at empowering youth, schools, families, and communities to create and foster a caring environment through community service. The program is based on five values: caring, respect, responsibility, family, and trust. The program is championed by the Principal's Advisory Council that works with Principal Sandra Grey and the School Core Team, consisting of students, parents, faculty, and staff. Tammy Falls, a Youth Development and Community Coordinator at Alternatives Inc., is guiding the program implementation and is collabo-

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**DIRECTOR'S  
NOTE**

Several years back, while assisting a neighborhood organization with the development of a neighborhood improvement plan, the issue of youth surfaced. We were quickly told by neighborhood leaders that there were no youth living in this particular neighborhood. Census numbers told us quite the opposite; this neighborhood had many young people. I think this illustrates perfectly the reason for youth involvement in neighborhoods – if left to adult ideas and perceptions, youth issues may be misunderstood at best or completely ignored, as was happening in this neighborhood. If you believe, as I do, that youth are our future, this is significant.

And so, the Neighborhood Initiative and the Neighborhood Commission place a high value on youth and youth involvement in neighborhoods. This value has evolved. The idea for a Neighborhood Initiative grew from community input during the planning stages for the Youth Coalition that told us: caring about youth means caring about the places where they grow up – our neighborhoods. We came further to understand that the value of youth went beyond an adult focus on youth issues – the

youth themselves are resources in identifying and addressing youth issues. The actual involvement of youth in neighborhoods and governance then taught us that youth are resources on community issues and projects that are broader than just a “youth agenda”. Their creativity, freshness and honesty have challenged us in everything that we do in neighborhood work.

As we celebrate the first decade of the Neighborhood Initiative and pay tribute to the neighborhoods that created the initiative through their work, I think it appropriate that part of our publication *Learning from Neighborhoods...the Story of the Hampton Neighborhood Initiative, 1993-2003* is about embracing youth as partners. We owe the youth a big thank you for the way they have taught us about their value as resources in our community and for the contributions that they make to quality of life in Hampton.

Note: Complimentary copies of *Learning from Neighborhoods... the Story of the Hampton Neighborhood Initiative, 1993-2003* are available in the Neighborhood Office.

**HAMPTON  
E-NEWS:**

An easy way to stay in touch with how your city tax dollars are at work in your community. Go to [www.hampton.gov](http://www.hampton.gov) to sign up for your free subscription.

**CONTACT US:****Neighborhood Link**

City of Hampton  
22 Lincoln Street, 5th floor  
Hampton, VA 23669

Phone . . . . . 757-727-6460

Fax . . . . . 757-727-6074

Web . . . . . [Hampton.gov/neighborhoods](http://Hampton.gov/neighborhoods)

E-mail . . . . [tflynn@hampton.gov](mailto:tflynn@hampton.gov)

## Registered Neighborhood Organizations

- Aberdeen Gardens Historic & Civic Association
- Buckroe Civic Association
- Colonial Acres Homeowners Association
- Downtown Hampton Development Partnership
- Elizabeth Lake Estates Civic Association
- Farmington Civic Association
- Fox Hill Athletic Association
- Fox Hill Historical Society
- Grandview Island Improvement League
- Newtown Improvement & Civic Club
- Northhampton Civic League
- Olde Hampton Community Association
- Olde Wythe Neighborhood Association
- Old North Hampton Community Organization
- Pasture Point Neighborhood Association
- Powhatan Park Neighborhood Watch
- Phoebus Civic Association
- Phoebus Improvement League
- Rosalee Gardens Neighborhood Association
- Tyler/Seldendale Community Improvement Task Force
- Wythe-Phenix Improvement Association
- Wythe Coalition

Call **727-6460** for more information on how your neighborhood can become registered.



## REGISTERED NEIGHBORHOOD IN DISTRICT 7

# Phoebus Improvement League - by Brian Livack

**T**he Phoebus Improvement League was formed in 1985 to address the issue of urban decline facing the Phoebus community. The boundaries of the League are generally defined by the old Phoebus town limits but certain projects go beyond those limits to include the surrounding streets within District 7. The League's early efforts included neighborhood yard of the month activities, projects focused on assisting the elderly with home repair and other community activities.

The League's mission is to enhance and improve the quality of life in the historic community of Phoebus through activities that preserve, physically rehabilitate and economically revitalize the area. Over the last few years, the League's emphasis has been primarily to remove blight and create renewal in the business district. The League hopes that the revitalization of the business corridor will have a "spill-over" effect into the surrounding neighborhoods. The League's philosophy is that the residential and business communities within Phoebus are not independent of one another. Each reflects the overall well-being of the area. In order to have a successful community, rehabilitation and revitalization must take place within both segments of the neighborhood. This split focus enables the League to involve all stakeholders within their boundaries without excluding anyone's voice or opinion.

The League has outreached to the residential community through the sponsorship of homeownership seminars in the Phoebus area and their participation in the District Area Resource Team (DART) for District 7. They also hold quarterly general membership meetings to address



**Phoebus**  
**www.phoebus.info**

community concerns and sponsor events and activities to help foster greater unity within a diverse community. The League collaborates with other organizations such as the Phoebus Civic Association and the Phoebus Neighborhood Cooperative to carry out various community events. Recent activities include a neighborhood clean-up, a "Get to Know Your Neighbor" event for Neighborhood Month, and Phoebus Days.

The League's accomplishments have included the funding of the Phoebus Business District Master Land Use and Development Plan; acquisition and demolition of the Shaheen building (current site of the Phoebus Branch Library); and the Phoebus streetscape project. The League also hosts two websites at [www.phoebus.info](http://www.phoebus.info) and

[www.phoebusdays.com](http://www.phoebusdays.com). In addition, the League publishes brochures on the Phoebus community and a quarterly newsletter that is delivered to over 2,500 households.

The Phoebus Improvement League is an all-inclusive organization which creates opportunities for community members to truly make a difference in improving the quality of life where they live, work and play. This kind of participatory leadership has created a stronger sense of commitment, ownership and cohesiveness throughout the Phoebus community. The League has succeeded in establishing a common goal and vision that can be interpreted as the "invisible thread" that holds the community together. For information on the Phoebus Improvement League, contact Susan Borland at 727-0808 or [director@phoebus.info](mailto:director@phoebus.info).

**Phoebus**  
**Neighborhood Cooperative**  
**&**  
**Neighborhood Watch #264**

**Come Join Us!!** Formed in 2001, the PNC began as an area neighborhood watch program and decided to expand its outreach due to voiced concerns relating to community issues that need attention. For more information email Pamela Covington at [PNCnow@yahoo.com](mailto:PNCnow@yahoo.com)

**Join Us!**

## Inside District

# 7

### REGISTERED NEIGHBORHOODS:

- Phoebus Civic Association
- Phoebus Improvement League

### NEIGHBORHOOD FUNDED PROJECTS

#### Matching Grants

2 projects  
totaling \$8,644

#### Neighborhood Month Grants

13 projects  
totaling \$6,828

#### Neighborhood Improvement Fund Grants

1 project  
totaling \$1,400

## Surrounded by Water and Rich in History

District 7 is comprised of eclectic neighborhoods with rich histories. These proud communities are the key to thriving businesses, revitalized arts and a strong sense of place. If you take a walk around District 7 you will find charming neighborhoods, schools building bright futures, antique stores celebrating traditions and a flourishing arts colony; all of which reflects the vibrant and varied neighborhoods that make up the District. At its core District 7 is about people, individuals who stand tall, and children who hold the dazzling hope for the future.

Bright blue water surrounds District 7 and provides the backdrop for an area overflowing with history and tradition. The area is bounded by Shelton Road, Woodland Road, Woodside Drive, the Hampton River, and the Chesapeake Bay. At the heart of it all is Phoebus, a quaint "city within a city" that was a focal point during the Civil War. The area was a safe-haven for slaves during the

conflict which resulted in Fort Monroe being referred to as "Freedom Fortress." District 7 also includes Easthampton, Fort Monroe, and East Hampton, the Veterans Administration hospital complex and one of the most prestigious African-American colleges in the nation, Hampton University. The ethnically diverse population is younger than the average age in Hampton and this can mainly be attributed to Hampton University's student population.

The area encompasses 3,975 households and a total population of 12,882. The district's housing stock is also diverse ranging from small 19th century homes to large modern waterfront homes with spectacular views. Downtown Phoebus houses the majority of the district's commercial uses. Much of the land that was previously industrialized in Phoebus has been converted to commercial or residential use, but Maida Industries still remains a major employer, along with Fort Monroe, the Veterans Administration Hospital and Hampton University.

**ASSETS:** Hampton University • Phoebus High School • Spratley Middle School • Captain John Smith Elementary School • Jane H. Bryan Elementary School • Moton Elementary School • St. Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic School • Woodlands Golf Course • Hampton Tennis Center • Hampton VA Medical Center • Phoebus Branch Library • The American Theatre • Phoebus Little League • Phoebus Fire Department • Monitor Lodge #197 • VFW Post 3219 • American Legion Post 48 • Lutheran Family Services • North Phoebus Resident Council • North Phoebus Community Center • Fort Monroe



### COMMISSIONER: Donald Blagg

TERM: 10/1/01 – 10/1/05  
PHONE: 757.722.1034

ADDRESS: 217 E. Howard St. • Hampton, VA 23663  
E-MAIL: DonB217@aol.com

**CIVIC INVOLVEMENT:** Current Member of Hampton-Mercury Lions Club, American Legion Post 48, Phoebus Neighborhood Cooperative, and Phoebus United Methodist Church. Former member of Phoebus Volunteer Fire Company and Rescue Squad.

**PROFESSION:** Retired Fire Captain – City of Hampton

**GOAL AS COMMISSIONER:** "Work with individuals and groups to facilitate common direction and purpose. To work through city processes to solve problems and assist the community in becoming more unified. To help develop pride in the neighborhoods and instill a greater sense of ownership in the community."



### FACILITATOR: Angelique Lenoir

Neighborhood Office • 727-6460 • alenoir@hampton.gov



ANNOUNCING THE INAUGURAL SESSION  
of the new

# HAMPTON DIVERSITY COLLEGE

**February 3 – March 23, 2004**

Hampton Diversity College is an 8-week course of multi-media, inter-active diversity education.

Join us for this exciting and challenging journey as we learn about and from each other.



## SESSIONS INCLUDE:

**Diversity 101 ▲ Including Others ▲ Field Trip**

**Getting to Know & Value Yourself**

**Acknowledging Prejudices ▲ Connecting the Dots**

**Getting to Know & Learn from Others**

**Graduation/Celebration**

Classes will be held every Tuesday evening

West Hampton Community Center

1638 Briarfield Road

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

*Class size is limited, so register TODAY  
by calling **728-3279***



## CITIZENS' UNITY COMMISSION

22 Lincoln Street • Hampton, VA 23669

Phone: 757-728-3279 • Fax: 757-728-3275

E-mail: [unity@hampton.gov](mailto:unity@hampton.gov)

Website: [www/hampton.gov/unity](http://www/hampton.gov/unity)

*You are Invited*

to the

**GRAND OPENING**

of the

**West Hampton  
Community Center**

*January 31, 2004*

3:00 - 6:00 p.m.



*Come dressed to experience all  
that Hampton's new state of the art  
community center has to offer:*

- Hampton's first indoor climbing wall with a 9 meter by 9 meter rock surface
- 6650 square foot air conditioned gymnasium with basketball and volleyball courts and a 8 foot perimeter-walking path
- 2200 square foot fitness room with free weights, machines and cardiovascular equipment
- 1800 square foot multipurpose room for yoga, dance, aerobics and a variety of fitness, wellness and enrichment activities
- 1200 square foot community room for birthday parties, receptions, community meetings, classes and more
- 1200 square foot lobby and café style lounge with large screen TV

*Ribbon cutting and dedication at 4:00 p.m.*

## West Hampton Community Center

1638 Briarfield Road • Hampton, VA 23661

West Hampton Community Center

# Consider Yourself Invited!

## HAMPTON ROADS REGIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE

**Saturday, January 31, 2004**

**10 a.m. — 3 p.m.**

**Rupert L. Sargent Building ▼ 1 Franklin Street ▼ Hampton, Virginia**

### **Neighborhood Communication ▼ 10–11:45 a.m.**

JUDITH FORSYTHE — *Forsythe Consulting*

Learn how to design your newsletter, meetings, and corporate sponsor funding program to engage not only your neighbors but your community at large. Judith Forsythe, author of a new book, "How to Build an Active and Strong Civic Organization" will discuss three ways to improve the number of attending members and active participants in your neighborhood league.

### **City Government's Role in a Neighborhood Initiative — The Hampton Story ▼ 12 Noon–1:15 p.m.**

JOAN KENNEDY — *Director Hampton Neighborhood Office*

Major questions that all communities will need to answer as they undertake a neighborhood initiative will be covered in this session. It is designed to assist city officials, city staff, and neighborhood residents with "start-up" strategies that can be replicated in their communities.

A recently published Replication Manual will be given to this workshop attendees and lunch will be provided.

### **The Nuts and Bolts of Neighborhood Youth Involvement ▼ 1:30–3 p.m.**

ALLYSON GRAUL — *Alternatives, Inc.*

This workshop introduces the myriad of ways youth (and adults!) can become active and viable participants in a neighborhood, and offers creative tips on how to recruit and involve them.

**Registration is FREE and flexible. Sign up for just one or all three!**

**Register Now! 757-727-6460 ▼ Space is limited**



CITY OF HAMPTON  
Neighborhood Office

### **THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!**

Hampton Neighborhood Commission • Virginia Rush  
Hampton Neighborhood Office • Coalition for Youth

## Partnerships Engaging Youth *(continued from front)*

rating with District 7's Neighborhood Commissioner, Donald Blagg, to identify opportunities for the group to participate in community service projects. Spratley Middle School is just one of the six local schools participating in this innovative program. For information on how "Heart 2 Hands" can partner with your neighborhood, contact Tammy Falls at Alternatives, 838-2330.

### Developmental Assets

Moton Elementary School places a high priority on getting students involved in the community through various partnerships and programs. Faculty and staff at Moton place a strong emphasis on working together to promote Developmental Assets (caring school climate and caring for others are just two examples) that will help students succeed in their future endeavors. In fact, former principal, Melody McCloud, was nationally recognized as the "Distinguished Principal of the Year" in Virginia as a result of her extensive work with Developmental Assets. The school accomplished this by forming partnerships with organizations such as the Center for Child and Family Services who provide staff for counseling students about anger management. They also have partnerships with the local Kiwanis Club and Key Club, who visit the school regularly to read and tutor the kids. Both organizations support the incentive-based BUGS (Bring Up Grades) program that recognizes students for improvements in the classroom. The school recently started an elementary CHROME program that focuses on mentoring and inspiring youth in technology related fields. The program provides a wide range of innovative activities to compliment student learning and to promote other career choices for students.



a collaborative effort involving the Phoebus Civic League, the Phoebus Improvement League and the local Neighborhood Watch Program. The goal is to create a formal Youth League that will be sponsored and supported by all three neighborhood organizations. Initially, the Youth League will participate in community activities with one organization followed by training sessions in the other two. This "cross-training" will provide a clearer perspective of what goes on behind the scenes in neighborhoods and the impact that individuals can have on their communities. The group is currently recruiting youth and adults to participate in training sessions to initiate the process. Contact Rick Finney at 728-1566 if you are interested in volunteering or having your child participate in this exciting new partnership.

### Service Organizations

The opportunities for engaging youth most naturally occur at the high school level, as young adults take on more independence and responsibility. Phoebus High School plays an important part in District 7's youth engagement strategy. Service clubs and teams at the school have traditionally been involved in many service activities. For example, members of the Key Club tutor and read to students at various elementary schools and participate in service projects within the surrounding communities. Students and staff at Phoebus High have a long history of being a great resource to the local neighborhoods as well as being a source of community pride and identity.

All of these factors work together to make District 7 a great place to raise a family, to be a child, and to live. Youth working in partnership with adults make this great community possible. Youth engagement is most definitely on the rise all over Hampton, so take part by inviting youth to contribute to your neighborhood in making it the best it can be.



Hampton is the first city in Virginia to build a centralized customer call center for citizens. Customer advocates answer questions about city services and take requests for service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Just dial 3-1-1 or 727-8311.

### Youth League

Another example of a youth/adult partnership program is in the works for District 7,

## NEIGHBORHOOD STAR

### Liz Nieder-Bocka

**W**hen Hurricane Isabel hit the area in September, we hope that every neighborhood had someone like Liz Nieder-Bocka. As you will recall, after the storm almost all of

Hampton was without phones and power. While some sat at home in the dark, Liz took to

the streets of Easthampton immediately after the storm to take care of her neighbors. She checked on several families especially those with small children, the elderly, and neighbors recovering from recent surgery. Each day Liz used her generator to make blocks of ice for

neighbors without power. She also provided food and much needed

company to her neighbors. So, Liz Nieder-Bocka, for your self-less caring

and generosity shared with neighbors during and after the storm, we pronounce you a Neighborhood Star for you embody the spirit of what being a good neighbor is all about!



## NEIGHBORHOOD COLLEGE

**REGISTER NOW!** Only one session will be held instead of two. We are now accepting applications for the winter session. Limited space available. We are also offering neighborhood organizations an opportunity to sponsor sessions in their neighborhood. Call Sheila Williams at 727-6460 for more details.



### Hampton Neighborhood Initiative

22 Lincoln Street, 5th floor  
Hampton, VA 23669

[hampton.gov/neighborhoods](http://hampton.gov/neighborhoods)  
(757) 727-6460 • fax: (757) 727-6074  
email: [neighbor@hampton.gov](mailto:neighbor@hampton.gov)

PRESORTED STANDARD  
U S P O S T A G E  
**PAID**  
HAMPTON, VA  
PERMIT NO 748

“Tell me, and I’ll forget.  
Show me, and I’ll remember.  
Involve me, and I’ll learn.”

Marla Jones

